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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/707,158

11/24/2003

Philip Jeffrey Seaman

1157

36613

7590

04/23/2008

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EXAMINER

ARYANPOUR, MITRA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3711

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/23/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/707,158

Applicant(s)

SEAMAN, PHILIP JEFFREY

Examiner

Mitra Aryanpour

Art Unit

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-18 are objected to because of the following informalities: A listing of the claims is not present. Applicant should follow the following guidelines when submitting claims:

(c) Claims. Amendments to a claim must be made by rewriting the entire claim with all changes (e.g., additions and deletions) as indicated in this subsection, except when the claim is being canceled. Each amendment document that includes a change to an existing claim, cancellation of an existing claim or addition of a new claim, must include a complete listing of all claims ever presented, including the text of all pending and withdrawn claims, in the application. The claim listing, including the text of the claims, in the amendment document will serve to replace all prior versions of the claims, in the application. In the claim listing, the status of every claim must be indicated after its claim number by using one of the following identifiers in a parenthetical expression: (Original), (Currently amended), (Canceled), (Withdrawn), (Previously presented), (New), and (Not entered).

(1) Claim listing. All of the claims presented in a claim listing shall be presented in ascending numerical order. Consecutive claims having the same status of “canceled” or “not entered” may be aggregated into one statement (e.g., Claims 1–5 (canceled)). The claim listing shall commence on a separate sheet of the amendment document and the sheet(s) that contain the text of any part of the claims shall not contain any other part of the amendment.

(2) When claim text with markings is required. All claims being currently amended in an amendment paper shall be presented in the claim listing, indicate a status of “currently amended,” and be submitted with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to the immediate prior version of the claims. The text of any added subject matter must be shown by underlining the added text. The text of any deleted matter must be shown by strike-through except that double brackets placed before and after the deleted characters may be used to show deletion of five or fewer consecutive characters. The text of any deleted subject matter must be shown by being placed within double brackets if strike-through cannot be easily perceived. Only claims having the status of “currently amended,” or “withdrawn” if also being amended, shall include markings. If a withdrawn claim is currently amended, its status in the claim listing may be identified as “withdrawn—currently amended.”

(3) When claim text in clean version is required. The text of all pending claims not being currently amended shall be presented in the claim listing in clean version, i.e., without any markings in the presentation of text. The presentation of a clean version of any claim having the status of “original,” “withdrawn” or “previously presented” will constitute an assertion that it has not been changed relative to the immediate prior version, except to omit markings that may have been present in the immediate prior version of the claims of the status of “withdrawn” or “previously presented.” Any claim added by amendment must be indicated with the status of “new” and presented in clean version, i.e., without any underlining.

(4) When claim text shall not be presented; canceling a claim.

(i) No claim text shall be presented for any claim in the claim listing with the status of “canceled” or “not entered.”

(ii) Cancellation of a claim shall be effected by an instruction to cancel a particular claim number. Identifying the status of a claim in the claim listing as “canceled” will constitute an instruction to cancel the claim.

(5) *Reinstatement of previously canceled claim.* A claim which was previously canceled may be reinstated only by adding the claim as a “new” claim with a new claim number.

Appropriate correction is required for the above objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-18 are rejected as failing to define the invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The claim(s) are narrative in form and replete with indefinite and functional or operational language. The structure which goes to make up the device must be clearly and positively specified. The structure must be organized and correlated in such a manner as to present a complete operative device. The claim(s) must be in one sentence form only. Note the format of the claims in the patent(s) cited.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 18 January 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The claims as presented are narrative in form and replete with indefinite and functional or operational language. Applicant should consider the drafted claims below, should applicant be in agreement with the proposed claims, then claim 1-18 should be cancelled and the following claims submitted.

5. The following claims are drafted by the examiner and considered to distinguish patentably over the art of record in this application, claims 19-27 are presented to applicant for consideration:

(New) Regarding claim 19, A basketball training device for use on a playing court for returning to a shooter said basketballs which have been shot into a basketball goal, said basketball goal including a rim, a rim support and a net descending from the rim said basketball training device comprising:

a plurality of roller bearings sandwiched between an inner rigid bearing having an inner diameter and an outer diameter and an outer bearing having an inner diameter and an outer diameter;

said inner rigid bearing attached to said basketball goal and said outer rigid bearing rotating freely with respect to said basketball goal;

an attachment attached to said outer rigid bearing, said attachment selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a rigid facsimile goal having an inner diameter, an outer diameter and a chute device attached to said rigid facsimile goal, wherein said basketball passes through said basketball goal; said inner bearing, said outer bearing and said chute device are returned to said playing court at an angle determined by a rotation of said outer rigid bearing; or

(b) a chute having an interior through which the basketball is channeled away from said basketball goal at a preselected direction by a rotation of said outer rigid bearing and wherein said basketballs are returned to any area of said playing court.

(New) Regarding claim 20, The training device according to claim 19, further comprising a long rigid shepherd's crook having a looping end and a tip attached to said looping end; said crook engages hooks attached to said rim, wherein a ladder is not required for either installation or removal of the training device.

(New) Regarding claim 21, The training device according to claim 19, further comprising a shepherd's crook for removably attaching said chute to said outer bearing; said chute further including hooks, wherein said shepherd's crook engages; whereby a ladder is not required for installation and removal of said chute.

(New) Regarding claim 22, The training device according to claim 19, further comprising a plurality of hooks securing attached to said rim; said hooks are made of a springy material attached to said inner rigid bearing of said training device; said hooks having loop portions to curve around said rim; a portion descending below said rim; a portion passing closely to an opposite side of said hook; and a portion which flairs away from said opposite sides; wherein said hooks are easily mounted but not easily dislodged.

(New) Regarding claim 23, The training device according to claim 22, comprising said plurality of hooks fold by means for allowing one part of said hook to rotate with respect to another part of said hook, allowing the training device to be substantially reduced in size for transport and storage.

(New) Regarding claim 24, The training device according to claim 19, wherein said chute is formed of a plurality of portions, said portions are removably attached to one another; said portions further include elements which can rotate allowing said chute to be substantially reduced in size for transport and storage.

(New) Regarding claim 25, The training device according to claim 20, said basketball goal further including a passage which is obstructed by an element; said element selected from the group consisting of: said plurality of roller bearings; said facsimile goal, said plurality of hooks, and said chute wherein said basketball will not easily pass through said basketball goal.

(New) Regarding claim 26, The training device according to claim 19, said training device does not rest on said playing court, wherein said training device does not impede said playing court.

(New) Regarding claim 27, The training device according to claim 19, said inner bearing is attached to a goal support formed on said basketball goal, wherein said basketball path is not altered when said goal support is struck.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mitra Aryanpour whose telephone number is 571-272-4405. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday 10:00 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Kim can be reached on 571-272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mitra Aryanpour/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3711
21 April 2008